

## TOM RENICK COUNTY PARK BIRD COUNTS – JANUARY, 2026

Another year starts, the 11<sup>th</sup> in all. So far there have been 3,410 surveys over 19, 471 hours. In all there have been 344 species which is explained by the number of surveys. For January there were 31 surveys over 128 hours this led to 133 species being counted the second-best year as there were 135 in 2024. The best days were the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 65 species and the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 6,404 birds. Now to the birds.

There was a Red-throated Loon on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Pacific Loon flew to the north on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Single Common Loons were seen on eight days. There was a Horned Grebe on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A Manx shearwater flew to the south on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Northern Gannets peaked at 132 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. American White Pelicans were seen on eight days with 24 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 62 in all. Brown Pelicans peaked at 128 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 103 on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Great White Heron on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a Reddish Egret on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a Black-crowned Night-Heron on the 30<sup>th</sup>. White Ibis peaked at 46 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were single Roseate Spoonbills on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with three on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Wood Storks were seen on 22 days with 21 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. For the vultures there were 49 Black on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 303 Turkey on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

There was an adult white morph Snow Goose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a Canada Goose on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a Muscovy Duck on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a Wood Duck on the 21<sup>st</sup>. An American Black Duck was seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, I have not seen it fly so perhaps a hunter injured it. A major surprise was an adult male Cinnamon Teal with the Lesser Scaup on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a new species. There were two Green-winged Teal on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> there were also 20 Canvasback. There was a Redhead on the 1<sup>st</sup> with counts of two on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a Ring-necked Duck on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Greater Scaup were seen on 17 days with 95 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Scaup were also seen on 17 days with 2,650 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the majority were seen at the river. There were two Surf Scoter on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with ten on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Single White-winged Scoter were seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with three on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Black Scoter were seen on 18 days with 55 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were two Bufflehead on the 4<sup>th</sup> with one on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Two Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> with seven on the 9<sup>th</sup>, one on the 20<sup>th</sup> and one on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A party of five Ruddy Duck were seen on the river on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Up to three Bald Eagles were seen daily with five on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a Northern Harrier on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Single Cooper's Hawks were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Red-shouldered Hawks peaked at four on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were single Red-tailed Hawks on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Golden Eagle on the 16<sup>th</sup> with an adult on the 27<sup>th</sup>. American Kestrels were seen on 14 days with

two on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Single Merlin were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. There were single Peregrine Falcons on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was a Sandhill Crane on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 60 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a Semipalmated Plover on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There were three Killdeer on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Single American Oystercatcher were seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Greater Yellowlegs on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Willets peaked at 70 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Single Spotted Sandpipers were seen on four days to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Ruddy Turnstone peaked at 110 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Red Knot peaked at 95 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Sanderling peaked at 110 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There were three Western Sandpipers on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Dunlin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were five Long-billed Dowitchers on the 5<sup>th</sup> with one on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Pomarine Jaegers were seen on six days with three on the 12<sup>th</sup>, ten individuals seen. Parasitic Jaegers were seen on 11 days with three on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, there were 15 individuals. Laughing Gulls peaked at 4,100 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a first-winter Franklin's Gull on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on six days with four on the 13<sup>th</sup>, there were ten individuals. Ring-billed Gulls peaked at 100 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and again on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Herring Gulls peaked at 755 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a first-winter Iceland Gull on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on 11 days with four on the 14<sup>th</sup>, there were 15 individuals. For Caspian Tern there were singles on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Royal Terns peaked at 187 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Black Skimmers were seen on 19 days with 75 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, there were 178 individuals. A Thick-billed Murre flew to the north on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

There were three White-winged Doves on the 8<sup>th</sup> with one on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an Eastern Screech-Owl on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Belted Kingfishers were seen on 14 days with three on the 6<sup>th</sup> and again on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen on 18 days with two on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Single Downy Woodpeckers were seen on four days with two on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Northern Flicker on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on 19 days with five on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Single Eastern Phoebe seen all month with counts of two on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on just four days. There was a White-eyed Vireo on the 25<sup>th</sup> with a Blue-headed Vireo on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a Carolina Chickadee on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tufted Titmouse were seen on seven days with four on the 25<sup>th</sup> a joint high count. Single House Wrens were seen on six days to the 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen on nine days.

Eastern Bluebirds were seen on eight days with counts of three on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. American Robins were seen on 22 days with 250 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 300 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 640 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were single Gray Catbirds on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. There was an American Pipit on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Cedar Waxwings were seen on six days with 90 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was an Orange-crowned Warbler on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a Yellow-throated Warbler on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were single Eastern Towhee on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a Chipping Sparrow on the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a Song

Sparrow on the 4<sup>th</sup>, second record. Common Grackles peaked at 77 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and again on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was an adult male Shiny Cowbird on the 18<sup>th</sup> (it was with Common Grackles). Brown-headed Cowbirds peaked at 140 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 250 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a Baltimore Oriole on the 25<sup>th</sup> with two on the 30<sup>th</sup> the latter a joint high count. House Finches peaked at 12 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Finally, for American Goldfinch there were four on the 4<sup>th</sup>, three on the 13<sup>th</sup>, seven on the 14<sup>th</sup> and two on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The next month awaits.

Harry Robinson